

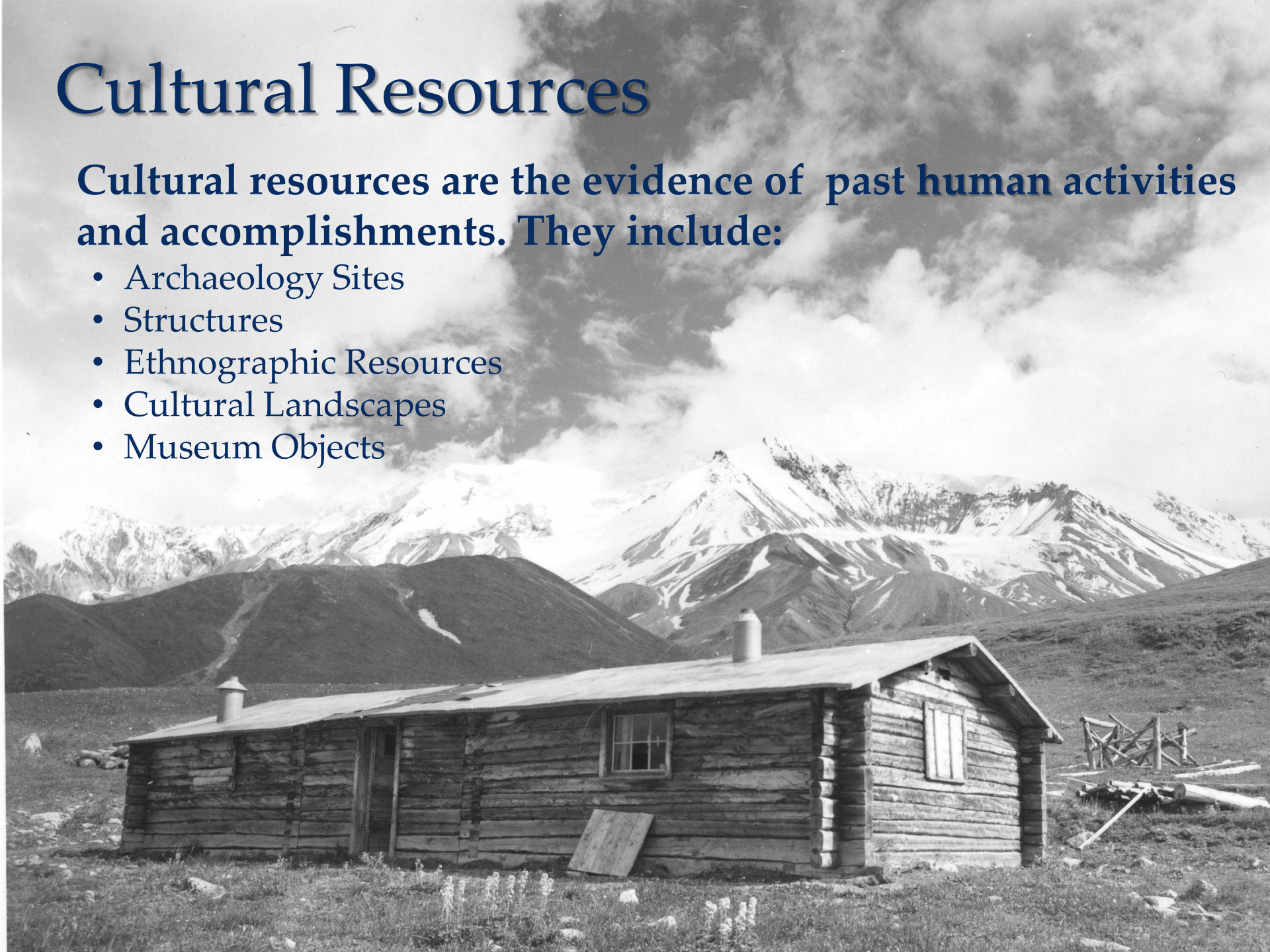
Denali's Not-So-Distant Past: Historic Archaeology in the Park

Phoebe Gilbert, Archaeologist
Denali National Park and Preserve

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are the evidence of past human activities and accomplishments. They include:

- Archaeology Sites
- Structures
- Ethnographic Resources
- Cultural Landscapes
- Museum Objects



Cultural Resources and NPS Purpose

- Two-thirds of all national parks were created to protect cultural resources.
- Educate park visitors that people inhabited the land for thousands of years.
- People have been living in the area of what is now Denali NP&P for at least the last 13,000 years.

Cultural Resources and NPS



Cultural resources are Nonrenewable resources

- Mission of the NPS to preserve and protect for future generations

Cultural Resources and NPS Wilderness

• “There has been extensive human use in most areas now designated as wilderness, resulting in archaeological sites, historic structures, cultural landscapes...and traditional cultural properties that are contributing elements to wilderness.”

- (RM-41, Section 4, Cultural Resource Management in Wilderness)

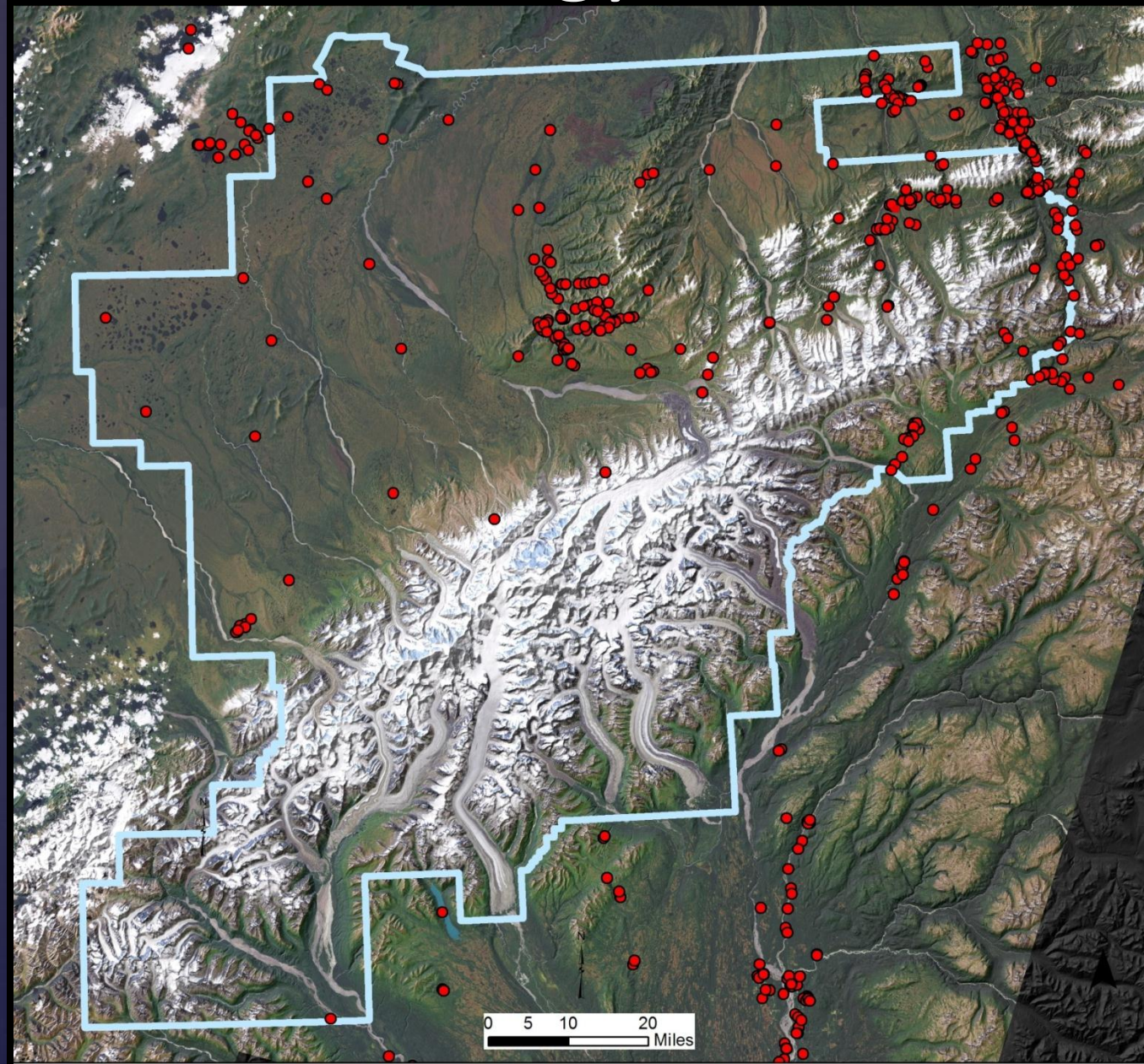
Historic & Prehistoric Archaeology

- Historic Archaeology-
 - 50yrs or older
 - After Euro-American/ Russian Contact
- Prehistoric Archaeology-
 - Before Euro-American/ Russian Contact
 - Thousands of years old in Alaska

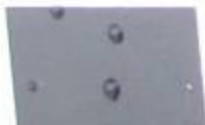


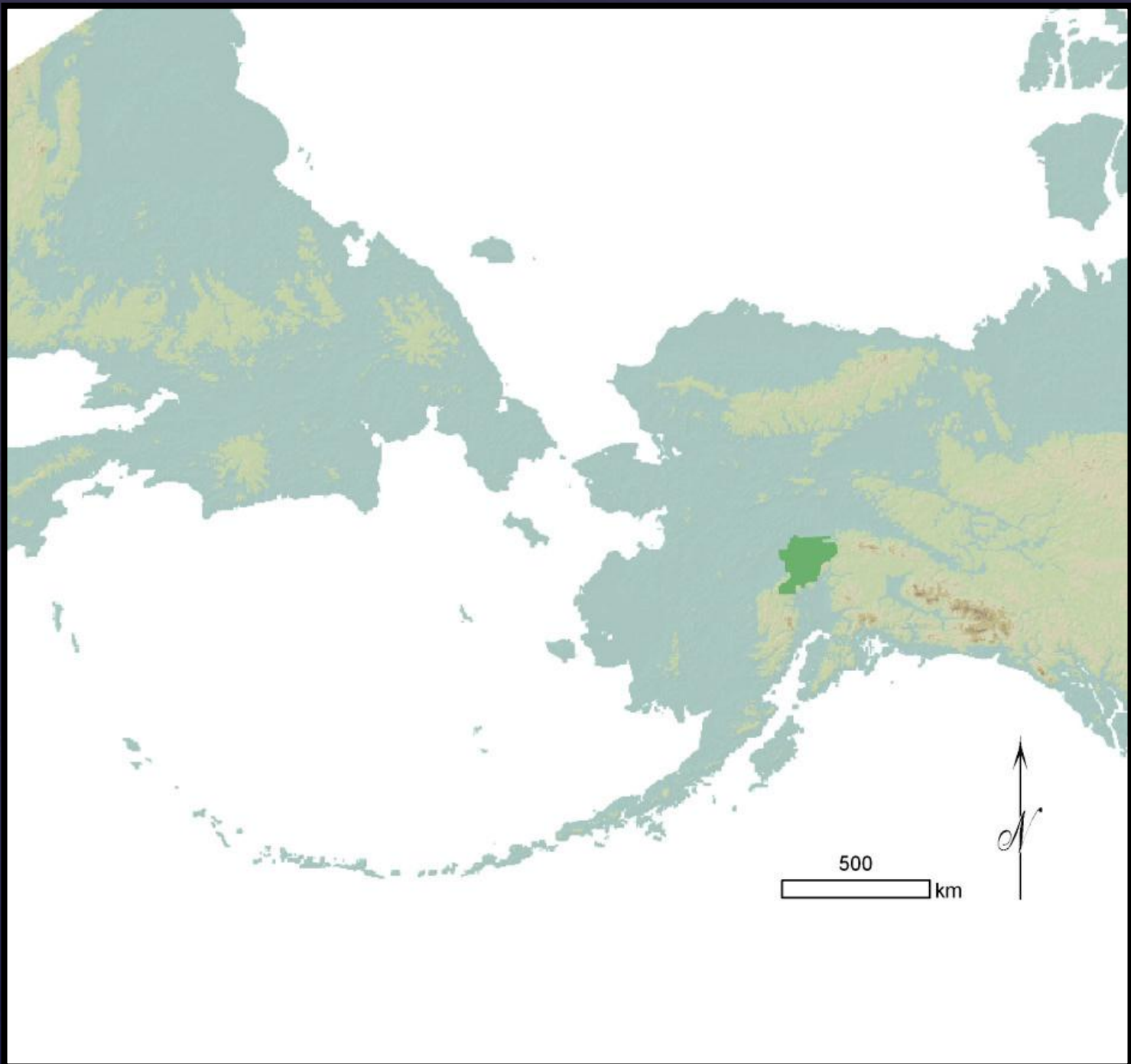
Known Archaeology Sites

- 350 Known Sites
- Less than 0.08% of the Park has been surveyed for Cultural Resources
- Less than 0.001% of the Mountain Portion of the Park has been Surveyed



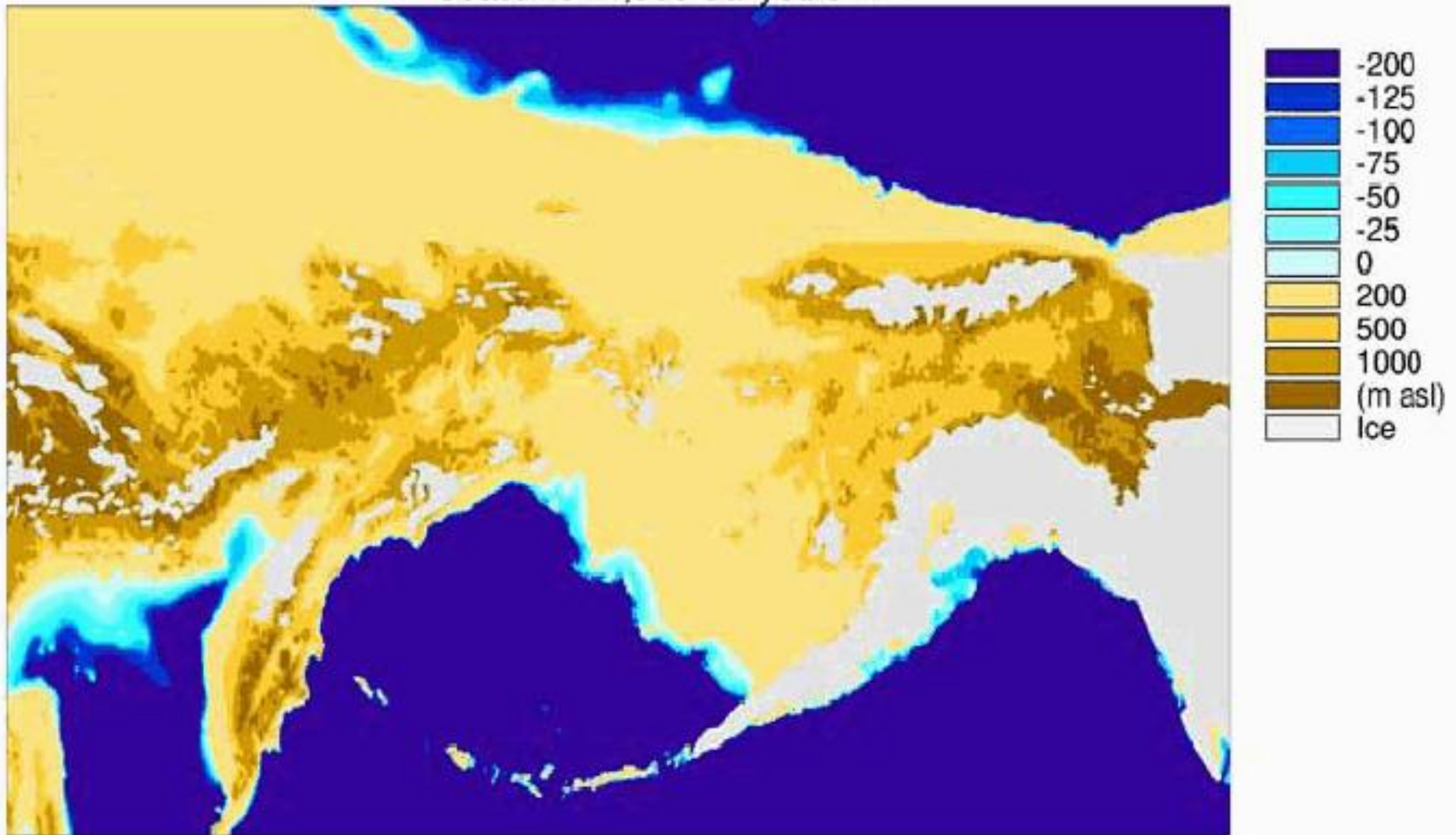
Prehistoric Archaeology





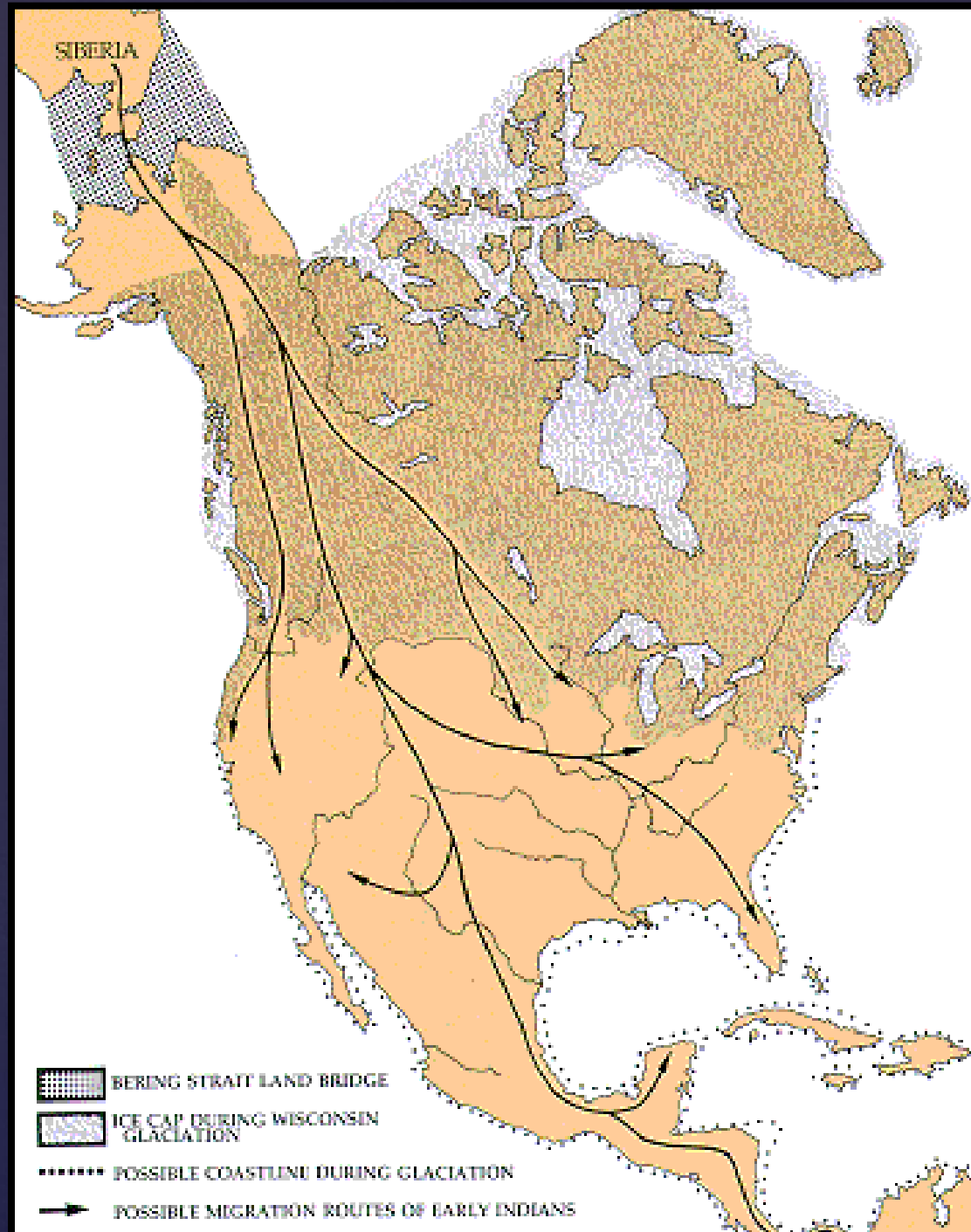
PALE Paleoenvironmental Atlas of Beringia

Coastline 21,000 Cal years BP



(Cal years BP = Calendar years before present)

Beringia and the Peopling of the New World



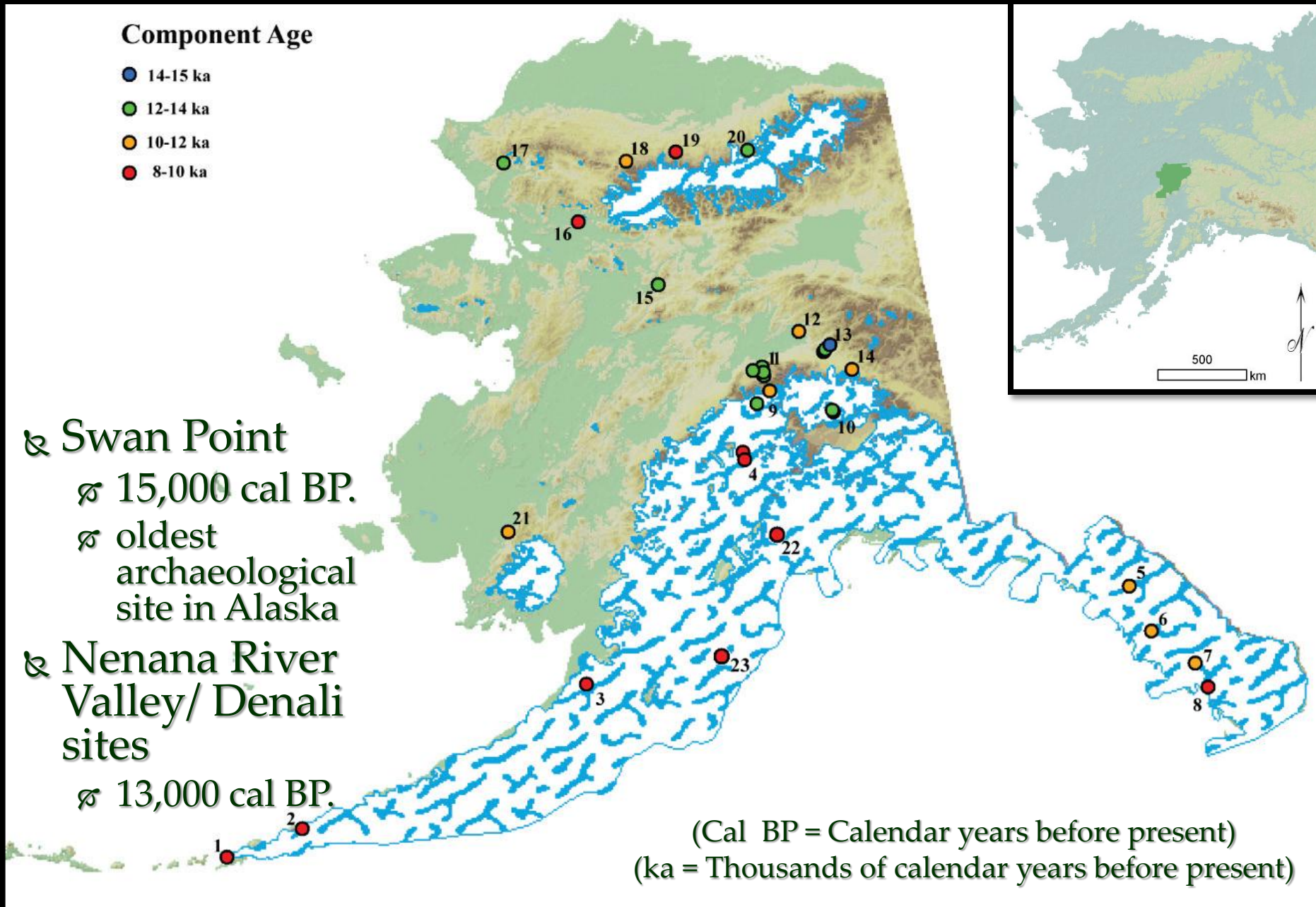
Component Age

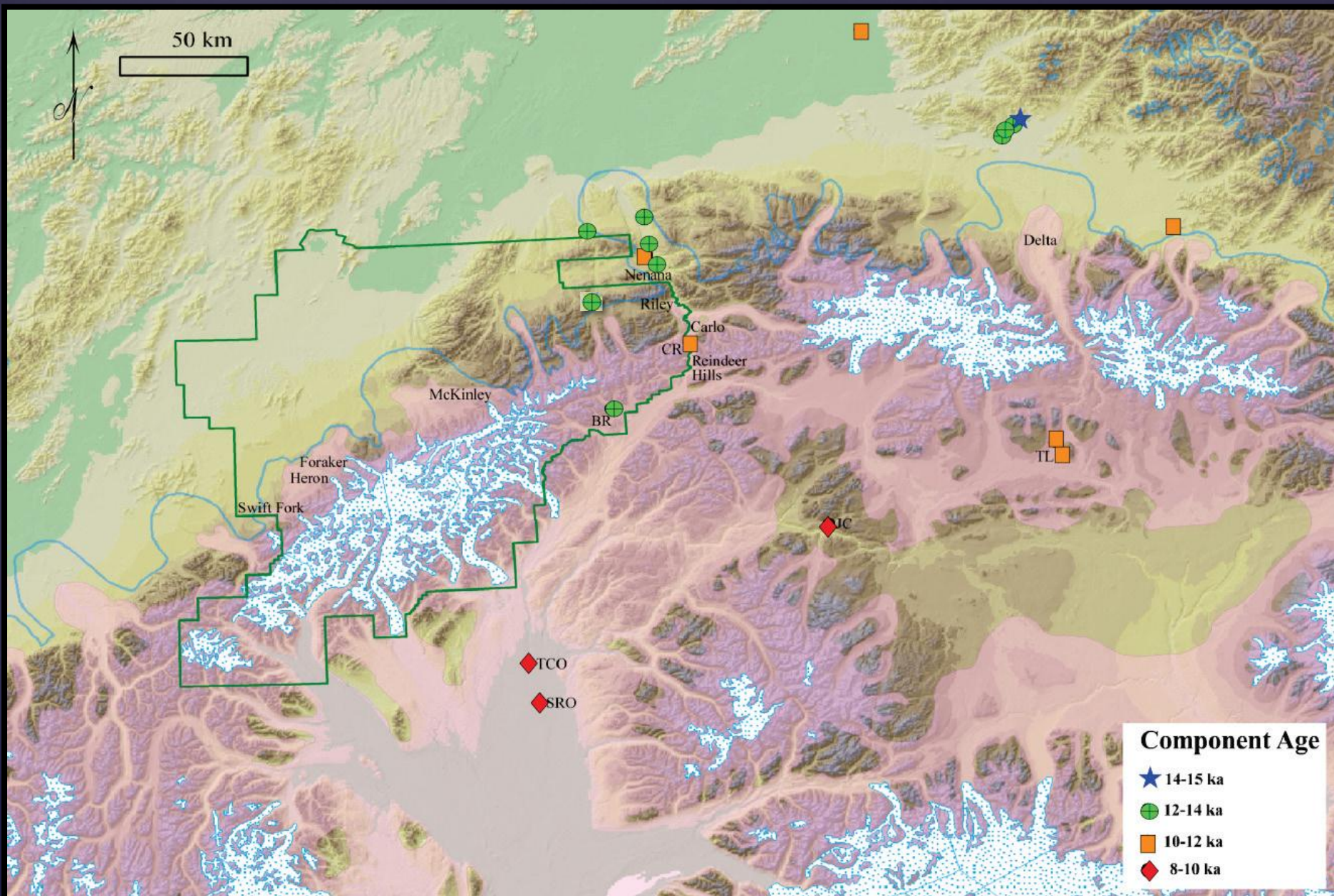
- 14-15 ka
- 12-14 ka
- 10-12 ka
- 8-10 ka

& Swan Point
ø 15,000 cal BP.
ø oldest
archaeological
site in Alaska

& Nenana River
Valley/ Denali
sites
ø 13,000 cal BP.

(Cal BP = Calendar years before present)
(ka = Thousands of calendar years before present)





Ice Patch Archaeology



Ice Patch Archaeology



Atlatl dart shaft found in an ice patch that dates to over 1,000 year old!

Ice Patch Archaeology



1,000 year old Arrow points and arrow shaft found melting out of an ice patch in the Alaphet Hills, AK.

Ice Patch Archaeology



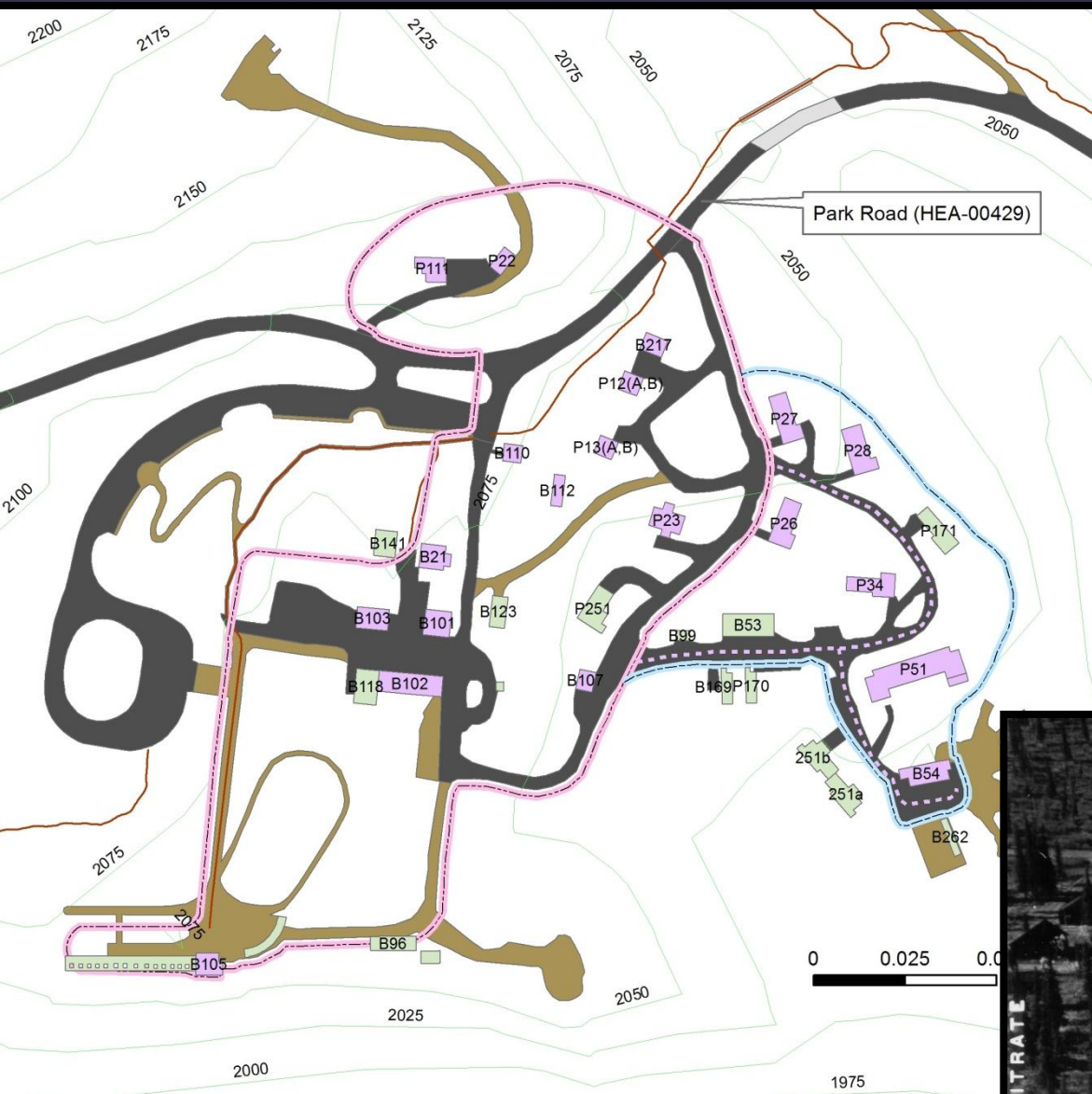
Undated bone and antler arrow shaft found in Denali. These most likely melted out of a glacier.

Ice Patch Archaeology



Historic & Prehistoric Archaeology

- Historic Archaeology-
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- Prehistoric Archaeology-
 - Before Euro-American/ Russian Contact
 - Native culture
 - Thousands of years old in Alaska



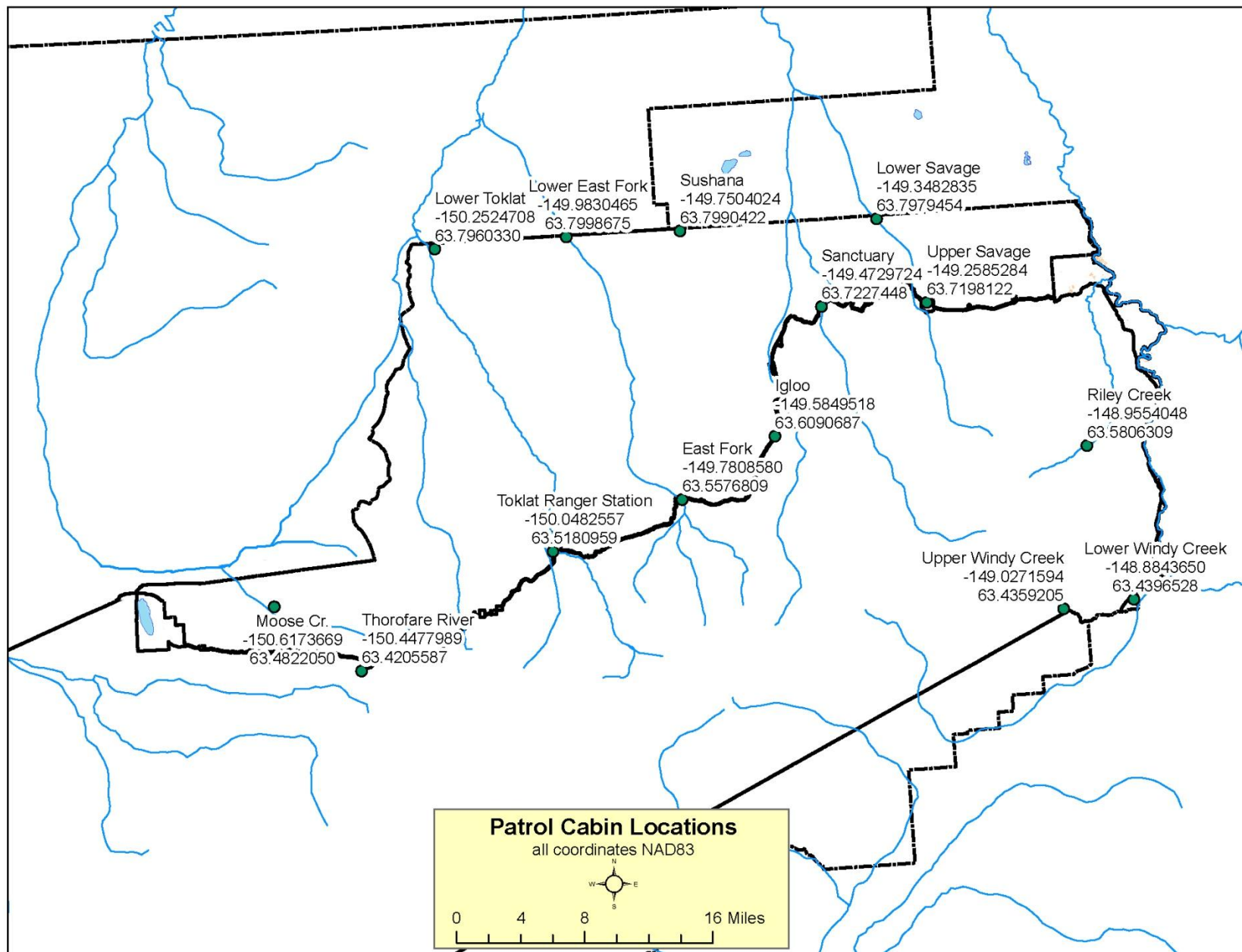
Candy Waugaman Collection

Headquarters Historic District

- 1926 – 1941 period of significance
- Included on National Register in 1987
- 1950-1961 period of significance for Boundary Increase

NPS Photo





14 Ranger Patrol Cabins Listed on the National Register of Historic Places



DENA 6-6.5, Denali National Park & Preserve Museum Collection

Wonder Lake Ranger Station

**Sites determined eligible for
National Register nomination**

DENA 11292, DNP&P Museum Collection

Savage River Tourist Camp



DENA 4-24, DNP&P Museum Collection

**CCC-Camp
Recreation
Hall**

**Copper Mountain
Mining Camp and
Herning Cabin**



“This trash needs to be cleaned up.”



NPS Photo

“Trash” collected by NPS employee on 6-25-2008. This historic funnel was found at an ARC road construction camp.



The message.....

It's NOT 'trash'.

It's YOUR cultural heritage.

PLEASE.....leave it where it is.

It is unlawful to remove cultural artifacts.

Its EXACT placement tells the story.

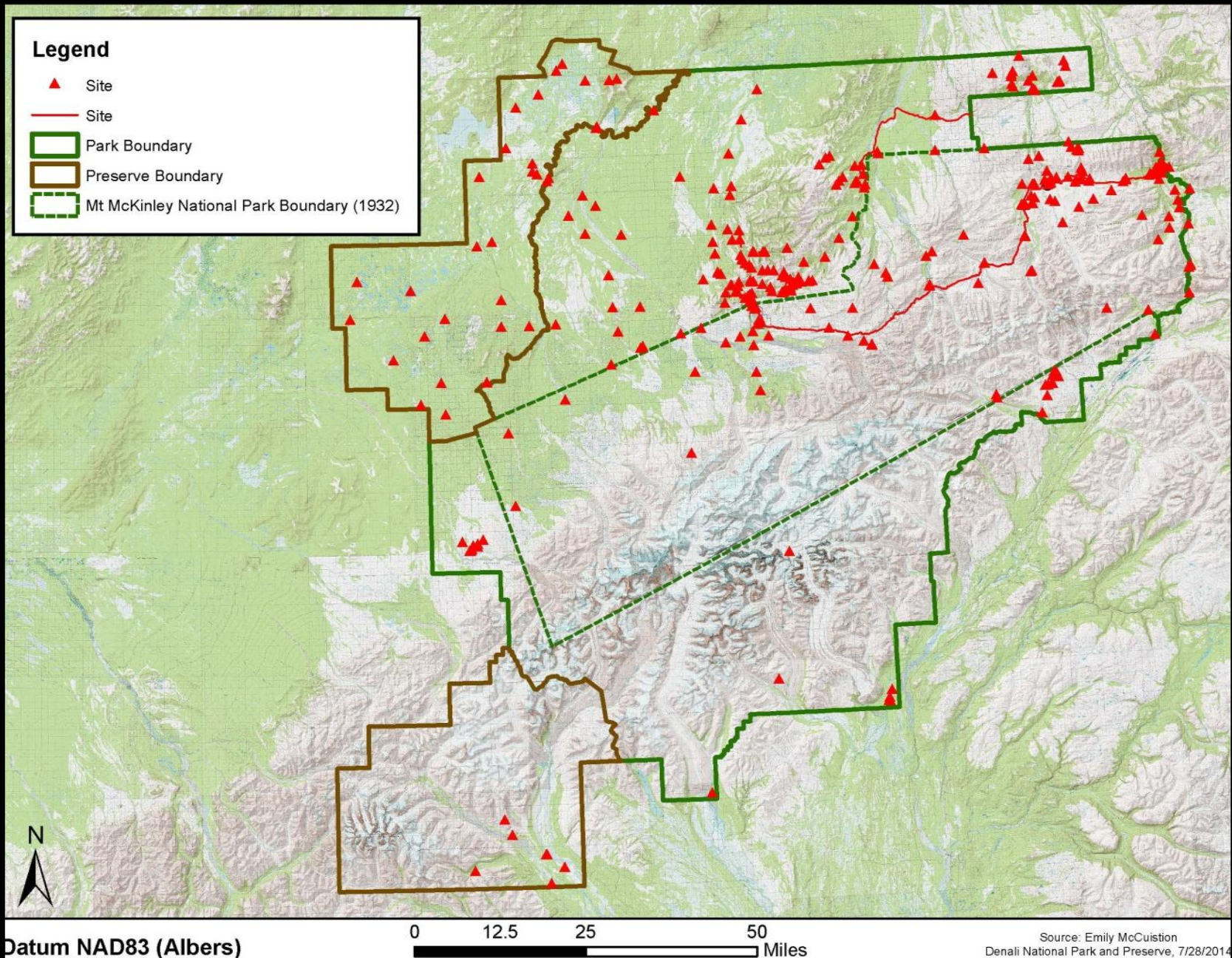
Leaving it IN PLACE is the preservation plan.

The 1944 C-47 Recovery Mission in Denali National Park



Denali NP&P Archaeology Overview

Denali National Park and Preserve
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Wilderness Act of 1964

NATURAL

Wilderness "...is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions"

Wilderness ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization

UNTRAMMELED

Wilderness is "...an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man..." and "...generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature"

Wilderness is essentially unhindered and free from the actions of modern human control or manipulation

SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION

Wilderness "...has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation"

Wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation

UNDEVELOPED

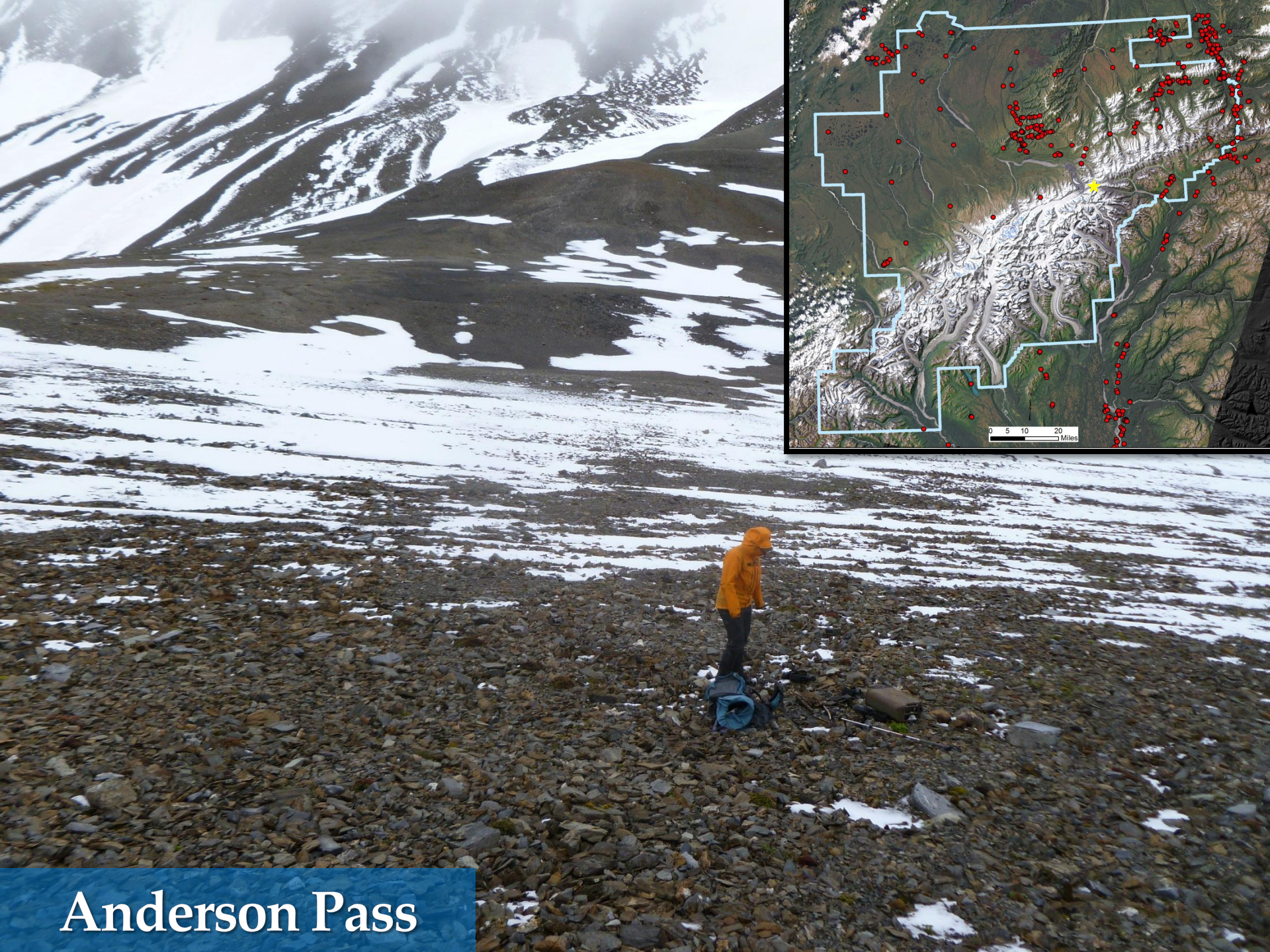
Wilderness is "...an area of undeveloped Federal land...without permanent improvement or human habitation" and "...where man himself is a visitor who does not remain"

Wilderness retains its primeval character and influence, and is essentially without permanent improvement or modern human occupation

OTHER FEATURES

Wilderness "...may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

Wilderness preserves other tangible features that are of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value



Anderson Pass





24AB4 G368 10:1 11:28 PERSONNEL WORKING ON MCKINLEY EXPEDITION











